

Subpart B—Assessment Procedure

§ 11.11 Notice of violation.

(a) A notice of violation (hereinafter “notice”), shall be issued by the Director and served personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, upon the person believed to be subject to a civil penalty (the respondent). The notice shall contain: (1) A concise statement of the facts believed to show a violation, (2) a specific reference to the provisions of the statute or regulation allegedly violated, and (3) the amount of penalty proposed to be assessed. The notice may also contain an initial proposal for compromise or settlement of the case. The notice shall also advise the respondent of his right to file a petition for relief pursuant to § 11.12, or to await the Director’s notice of assessment.

(b) The respondent shall have 45 days from the date of the notice of violation in which to respond. During this time he may:

- (1) Undertake informal discussions with the Director;
- (2) Accept the proposed penalty, or the compromise, if any, offered in the notice;
- (3) File a petition for relief; or
- (4) Take no action, and await the Director’s decision, pursuant to § 11.13.

(c) Acceptance of the proposed penalty or the compromise shall be deemed to be a waiver of the notice of assessment required by § 11.14, and of the opportunity for a hearing. Any counter offer of settlement shall be deemed a rejection of the proposed offer of compromise.

§ 11.12 Petition for relief.

If the respondent so chooses he may ask that no penalty be assessed or that the amount be reduced, and he may admit or contest the legal sufficiency of the charge and the Director’s allegations of facts, by filing a petition for relief (hereinafter “petition”) with the Director at the address specified in the notice within 45 days of the date thereof. The petition shall be in writing and signed by the respondent. If the respondent is a corporation, the petition must be signed by an officer authorized to sign such documents. It must set

forth in full the legal or other reasons for the relief.

§ 11.13 Decision by the Director.

Upon expiration of the period required or granted for filing of a petition for relief, the Director shall proceed to make an assessment of a civil penalty, taking into consideration information available to him and such showing as may have been made by the respondent, either pursuant to § 11.11 or § 11.12, or upon further request of the Director.

§ 11.14 Notice of assessment.

The Director shall notify the respondent by a written notice of assessment, by personal service or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, of his decision pursuant to § 11.13. He shall set forth therein the facts and conclusions upon which he decided that the violation did occur and appropriateness of the penalty assessed.

§ 11.15 Request for a hearing.

Except where a right to request a hearing is deemed to have been waived as provided in § 11.11, the respondent may, within 45 calendar days from the date of the notice of assessment referred to in § 11.14, file a dated, written request for a hearing with the Hearings Division, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203. The request should state the respondent’s preference as to the place and date for a hearing. The request must enclose a copy of the notice of violation and notice of assessment. A copy of the request shall be served upon the Director personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, at the address specified in the notice.

§ 11.16 Final administrative decision.

(a) Where no request for a hearing is filed as provided in § 11.15 the Director’s assessment shall become effective and shall constitute the final administrative decision of the Secretary on the 45th calendar day from the date of the notice of assessment.

(b) If a request for a hearing is timely filed in accordance with § 11.15, the date

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of the final administrative decision in the matter shall be as provided in subpart C of this part.

§ 11.17 Payment of final assessment.

When a final administrative decision becomes effective in accordance with this part 11, the respondent shall have 20 calendar days from the date of the final administrative decision within which to make full payment of the penalty assessed. Payment will be timely only if received in Office of the Director during normal business hours, on or before the 20th day. Upon a failure to pay the penalty, the Solicitor of the Department may request the Attorney General to institute a civil action in the U.S. District Court to collect the penalty.

Subpart C—Hearing and Appeal Procedures

§ 11.21 Commencement of hearing procedures.

Proceedings under this subpart are commenced upon the timely filing with the Hearings Division of a request for a hearing, as provided in § 11.15 of subpart B. Upon receipt of a request for a hearing, the Hearings Division will assign an administrative law judge to the case. Notice of assignment will be given promptly to the parties, and thereafter, all pleadings, papers, and other documents in the proceeding shall be filed directly with the administrative law judge, with copies served on the opposing party.

§ 11.22 Appearance and practice.

(a) Subject to the provisions of 43 CFR 1.3, the respondent may appear in person, by representative, or by counsel, and may participate fully in these proceedings.

(b) Department counsel designated by the Solicitor of the Department shall represent the Director in these proceedings. Upon notice to the Director of the assignment of an administrative law judge to the case, said counsel shall enter his appearance on behalf of the Director and shall file all petitions and correspondence exchanged by the Director and the respondent pursuant to subpart B of this part, which shall become part of the hearing record.

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Thereinafter, service upon the Director in these proceedings shall be made to his counsel.

§ 11.23 Hearings.

(a) The administrative law judge shall have all powers accorded by law and necessary to preside over the parties and the proceedings and to make decisions in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 554–557. Failure to appear at the time set for hearing shall be deemed a waiver of the right to a hearing and consent to the making of a decision on the record made at the hearing. Copies of the transcript may be inspected or copied.

(b) The transcript of testimony, the exhibits, and all papers, documents, and requests filed in the proceedings, shall constitute the record for decision. The judge will render a written decision upon the record, which shall set forth his findings of fact and conclusions of law, and the reasons and basis therefor, and an assessment of a penalty, if any.

§ 11.24 Final administrative action.

Unless a notice of request for an appeal is filed in accordance with § 11.25 of this subpart C, the administrative law judge's decision shall constitute the final administrative determination of the Secretary in the matter and shall become effective 30 calendar days from the date of the decision.

§ 11.25 Appeal.

(a) Either the respondent or the Director may seek an appeal from the decision of an administrative law judge rendered subsequent to January 1, 1974, by the filing of a "Notice of Request for Appeal" with the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203, within 30 calendar days of the date of the administrative law judge's decision. Such notice shall be accompanied by proof of service on the administrative law judge and the opposing party.

(b) Upon receipt of such a request, the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, shall appoint an ad hoc appeals board to determine whether an appeal should be granted, and to hear and decide an appeal. To the extent